



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 16, Issue #3 Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

14 May 2021

Pest Patrol Alerts

The information contained herein each issue is available via text alerts that direct users to online recordings. I will update the short message often for at least as long as the newsletter runs. After a new message is posted, a text message is sent to alert users that I have recorded a new update. Users can subscribe for text message alerts for my updates in two easy steps. Step one: register by texting **pestpat7** to 97063. Step two: reply to the confirmation text you receive by texting the letter “y” to complete your registration. Pest Patrol Alerts are sponsored by Syngenta.

Updates on Twitter

When noteworthy events happen the in the field, I will be sending them out quickly via Twitter. If you want to follow those quick updates, follow me at [@bugdocisin](https://twitter.com/bugdocisin) on Twitter.



News from Around the State

Jonathan Croft, county agent in Orangeburg County, shared the photo here and mentioned to me earlier this week that “Kudzu bugs are alive and doing well in Orangeburg on the kudzu next to our parking lot.” **Charles Davis**, county agent in Calhoun County, reported that he “had a report of heavy thrips observed by one of my farmers (the white T-shirt test method, which works pretty well!), though I don’t know what species they were. A couple of calls about grasshoppers came in today, but otherwise all is quiet.”

David DeWitt, county agent in Lee County, reported hearing of “nothing this way [regarding insects but] finally received some rain to most of the area. Maybe what’s planted will start to come up.”



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Scouting Workshops and Field Days

With the indoor mask mandate just lifted by the CDC for those that have been vaccinated, things should get back to a more normal than we have experienced for over a year. This will very likely (or it should) result in our administration letting us get back to in-person meetings, especially those **outdoors** for most of the meeting. We are planning on having several in-field, in-person workshops devoted to scouting for insect issues in cotton and soybeans. These scouting workshops are tentatively being scheduled for late July 2021. We will continue to update on progress in planning for those workshops. We are planning to have an in-person field day here at the Edisto REC on 2 September 2021, with at least row crops (cotton, soybeans, peanuts, corn, grain sorghum, etc.) covered. Stay tuned for details on those events.

Cotton Situation

As of 9 May 2021, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 40% of the crop has been planted, compared with 18% at this time last year, 21% at this time last year, and 29% for the 5-year average. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

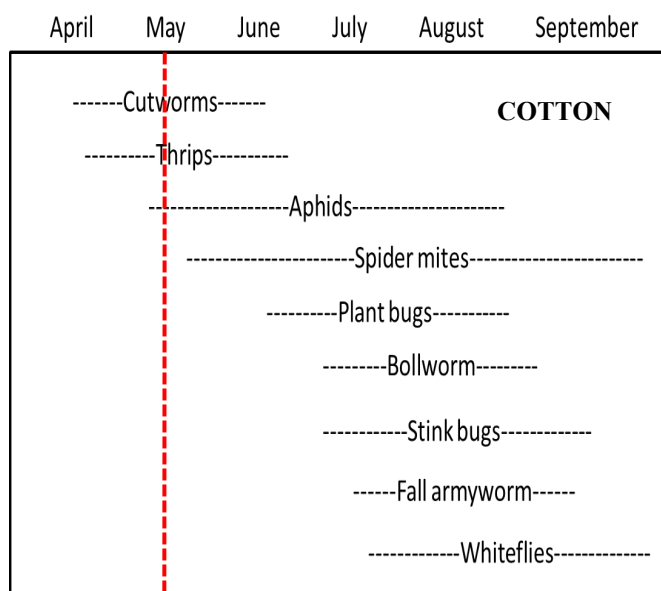
Cotton Insects

Cotton planted during mid-April looks pretty good (photo below), especially if it had a good at-plant insecticide put in the furrow. ☺



I keep checking the predictive tool for estimating risk of thrips by planting date, and the charts (on next page) generated by the online program (I updated the charts this afternoon) show that we are coming out of the window for the

worst time to plant in the southern portion of the Coastal Plain in SC. The risk for injury after the crop emerges was very high for planting during the first two weeks of May in the southern and central region of the Coastal Plain in SC. Planting during mid- or late May carries a low risk for injury from thrips in these areas (charts for Blackville and Cameron). In the Pee Dee Region of the Coastal Plain in SC, risk for thrips injury is showing a heightened risk for thrips for most of the rest of May (chart on next page for Darlington), but it is declining throughout May. I would plant toward the end of May in the



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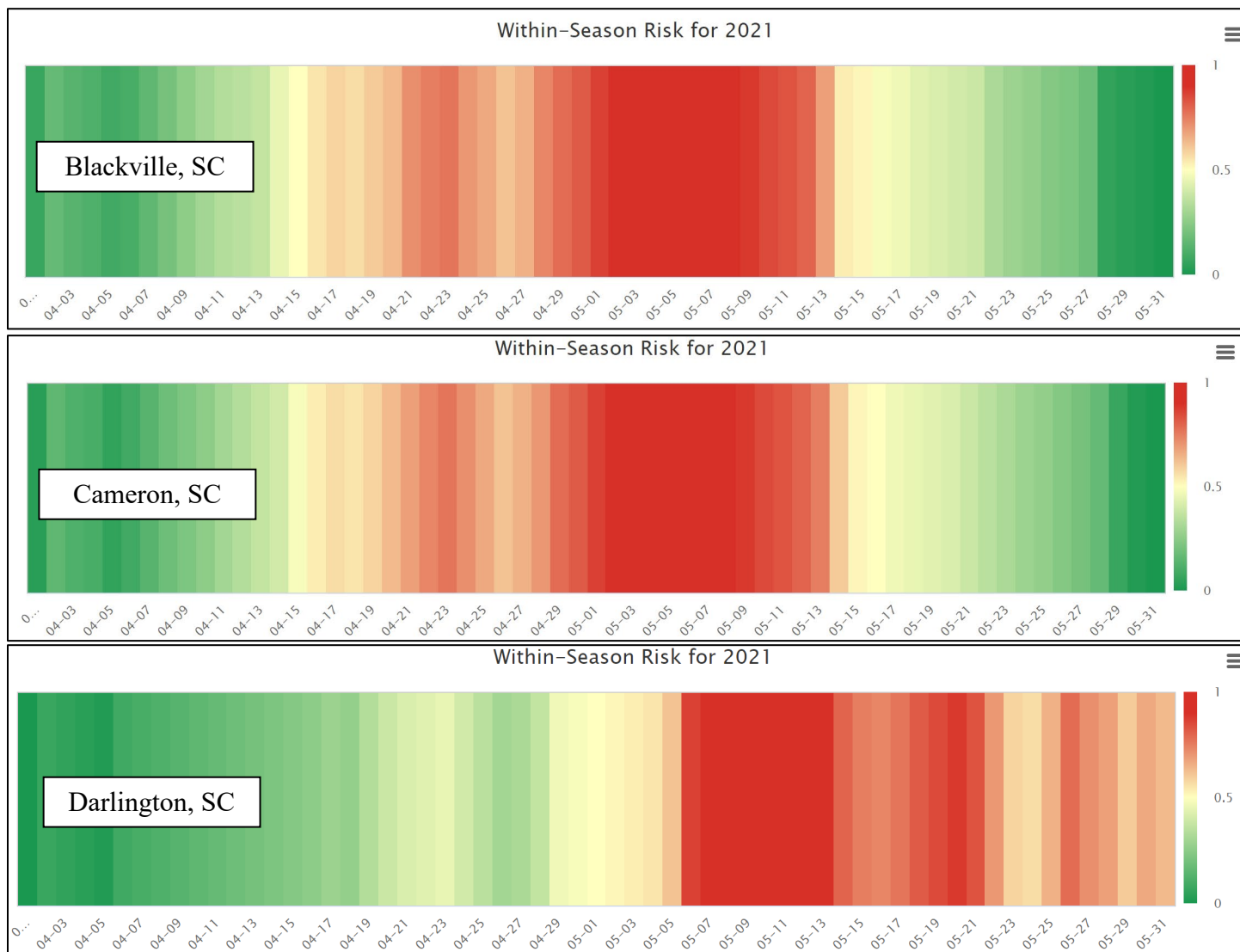
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Pee Dee Region, if you are trying to reduce risk from thrips injury. These charts were all created by using the tool at this link: <https://products.climate.ncsu.edu/ag/cottontip/>

This might be the last time I mention this tool for thrips this year, so I encourage you to familiarize yourself with this tool and see what you can learn from it regarding risk of planting date for thrips. As I mentioned previously, be patient with the tool, as it takes a minute to run. Do understand this is just a tool with predictions based on many factors. It is not always perfectly accurate, but it is pretty close.

Here are some charts updated for this week showing risk for tobacco thrips on seedling cotton by region in the Coastal Plain of South Carolina. **This is the risk for planting on the dates showing...not when thrips will be an issue.** Thrips will be an issue after this planting window of risk potential.



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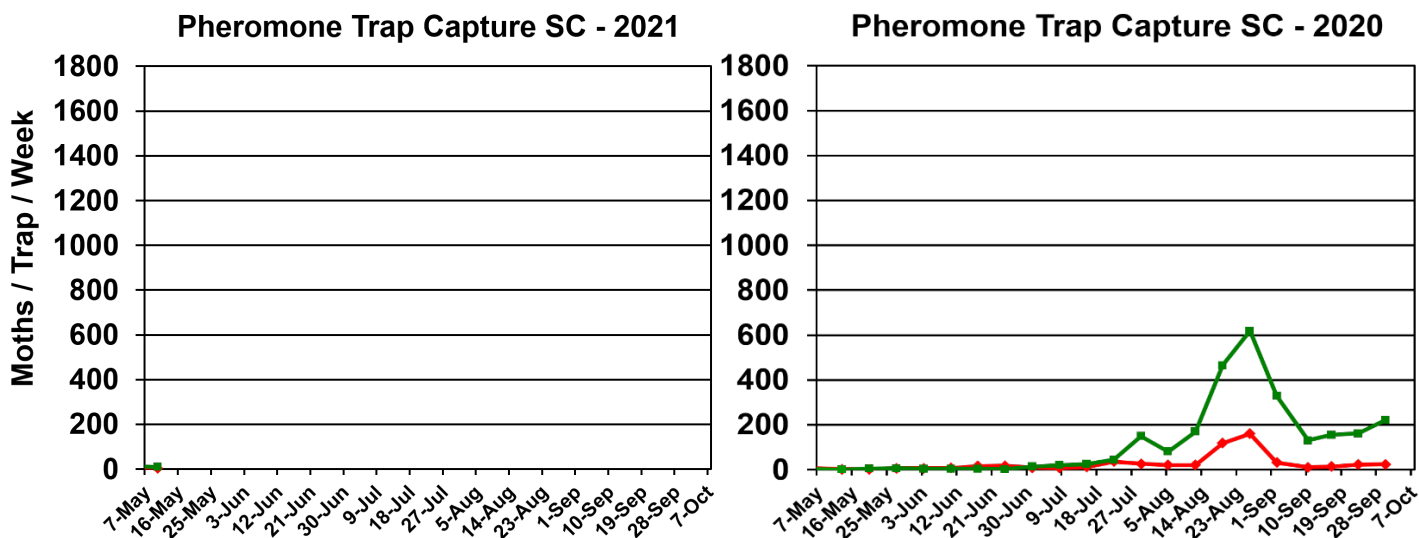


Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm

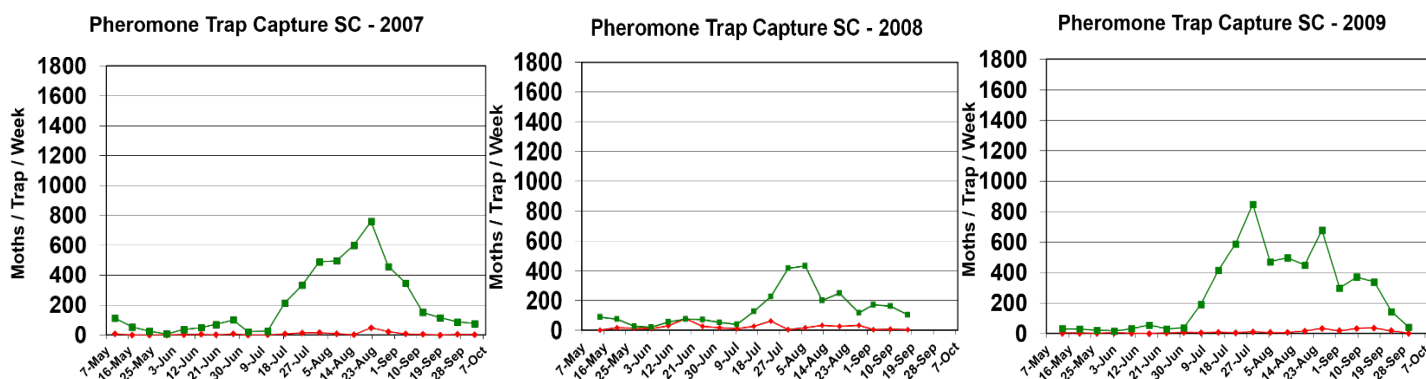


Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2007-2020 for reference. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for any acres of non-Bt cotton. I provide these

data as a measure of moth presence and activity in our local area near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.



Trap data from 2007-2019 are shown below for reference to other years of trapping data from EREC:



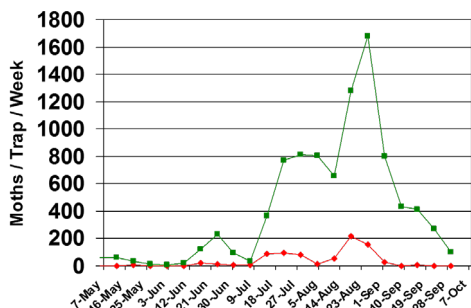
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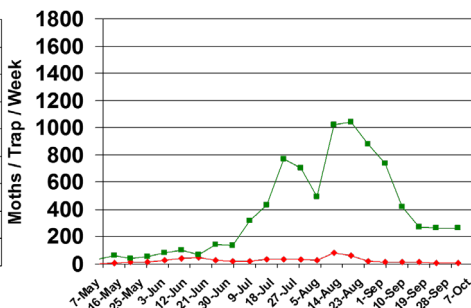
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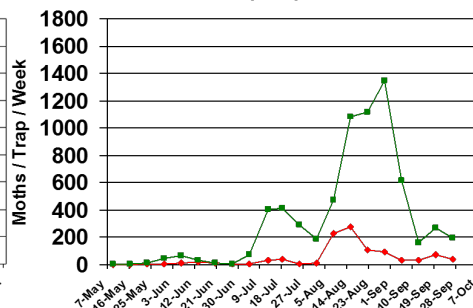
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2010



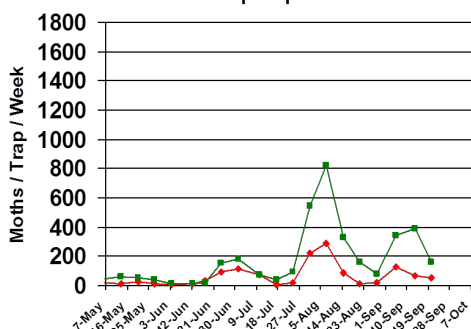
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2011



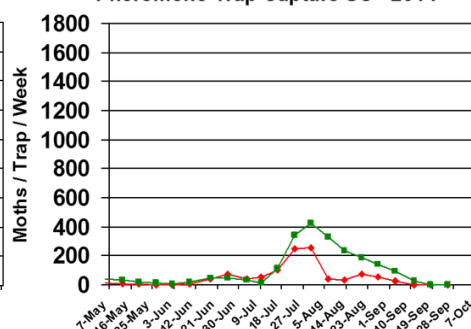
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2012



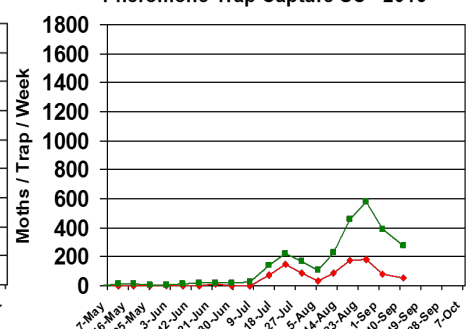
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2013



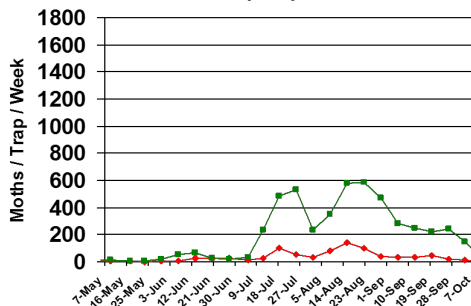
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2014



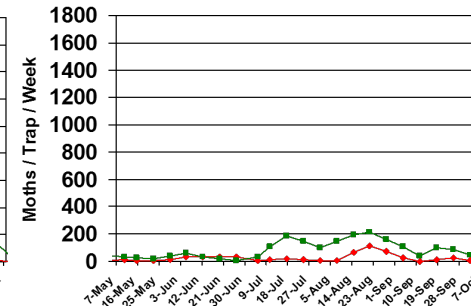
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2015



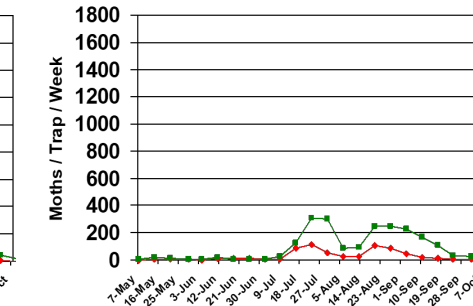
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2016



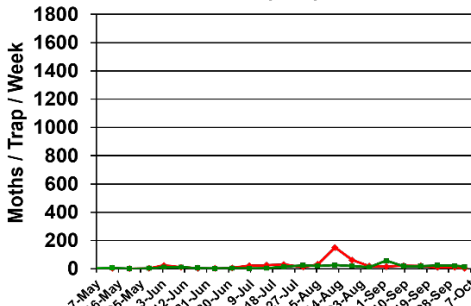
Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2017



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2018



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2019



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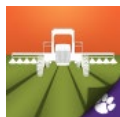


Pest Management Handbook – 2021

Insect control recommendations are available online in the 2021 South Carolina Pest Management Handbook at:

<https://www.clemson.edu/extension/agronomy/pest%20management%20handbook.html>

Free Mobile Apps: “Calibrate My Sprayer” and “Mix My Sprayer”



Download our free mobile apps called “Calibrate My Sprayer” and “Mix My Sprayer” that help check for proper calibration of spraying equipment and help you with mixing user-defined pesticides, respectively, in custom units (available in both iOS and Android formats):

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/mobile-apps/>

Need More Information?

For more Clemson University Extension information: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/>

For historical cotton/soybean insect newsletters:

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/agronomy/cotton1/newsletters.html>

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.
Professor of Entomology



Visit our website at:
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